



AMETHYST

PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

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AUTHORITY

SAY GOOD-BYE
TO YOUR FATHER,
PRINCESS--
FOREVER!

HA HA HA HA

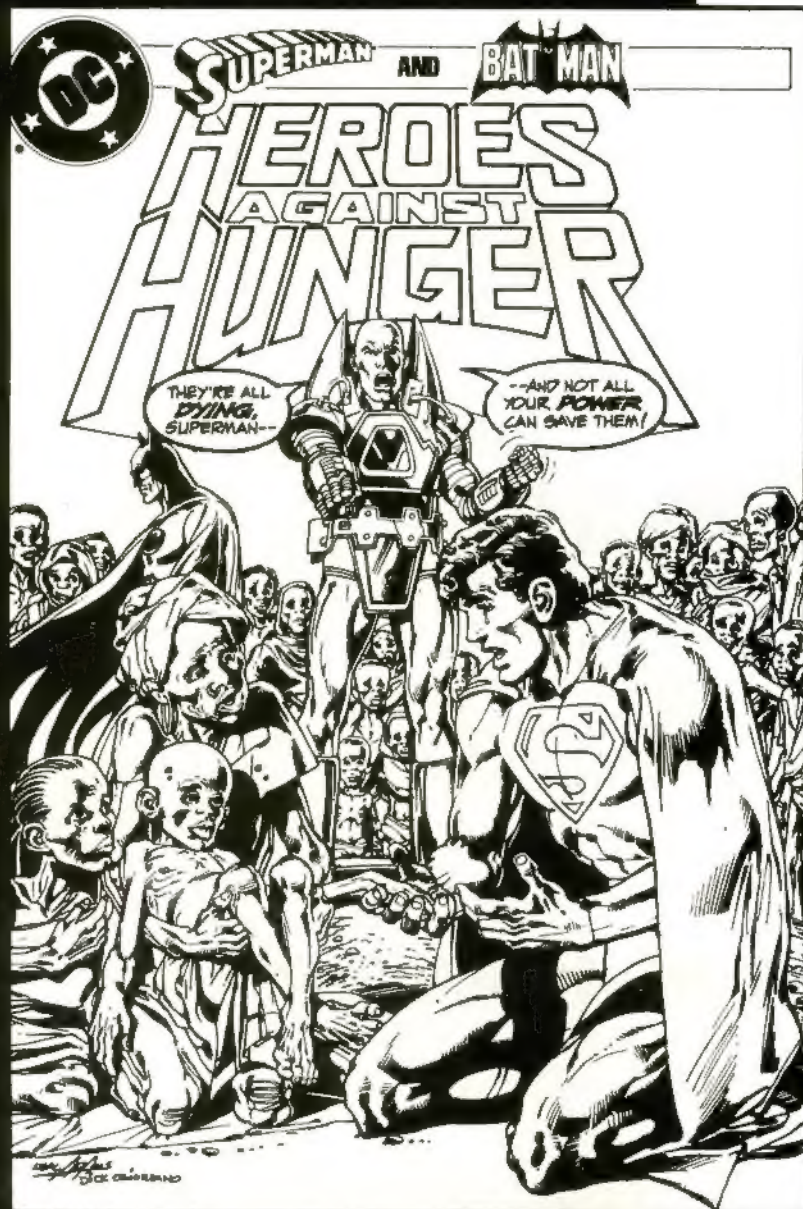
HA HA H

Abby's in
Gotham
City in
SWAMP
THING #51

Bob Geldolf proved an individual's efforts to end hunger in Ethiopia could make a difference.

We agree.

The following individuals donated their talent to create "A Song of Pain and Sorrow"



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All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to famine relief in Ethiopia.

PRINCE TOPAZ HAD BEEN THE FIRST TO RISE, THE FIRST TO CRAWL FROM THE WRECKAGE THAT HAD BEEN CASTLE AMETHYST, THE FIRST TO TAKE A BREATH OF AIR THAT WAS NOT HEAVY WITH THE DUST OF FALLEN PILLARS.

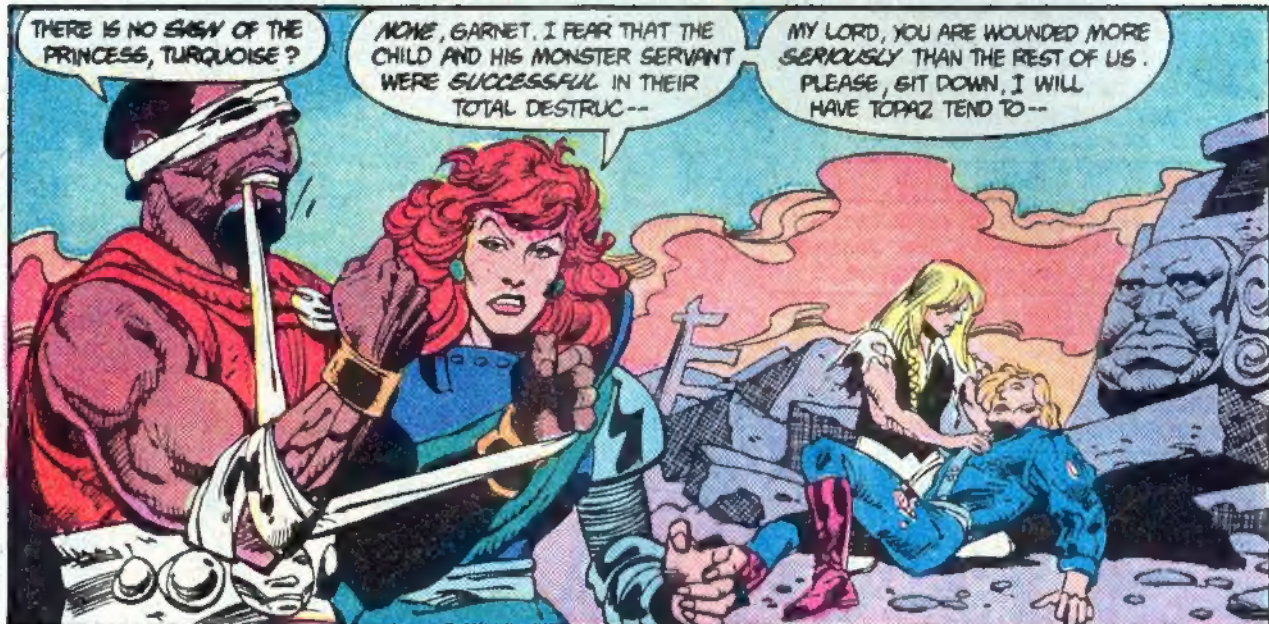
AND FOR AN ENDLESS TIME, LORD TOPAZ HAD BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE THE LONE SURVIVOR, THE LAST NOBLEMAN OF THE GEMWORLD.

THEN HE HEARD A GASP, A SMALL CRY OF ANGUISH, AND HE BEGAN TO DIG BACK DOWN INTO THE PURPLE STONE.

NOW THERE ARE FOUR, WHERE ONCE THERE WERE FIVE, AND AS THEY TEND TO THEIR WOUNDED HANDS AND BODIES, THERE IS ONE COMMON THOUGHT AMONG THEM.

WHERE IS THEIR SOVEREIGN PRINCESS? WHERE IS THE MISTRESS OF THE PURPLE GEM?

WHERE IS AMETHYST?



THERE IS NO *SASH* OF THE PRINCESS, TURQUOISE?

NONE, GARNET. I FEAR THAT THE CHILD AND HIS MONSTER SERVANT WERE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR TOTAL DESTRUCTION--

MY LORD, YOU ARE WOUNDED MORE SERIOUSLY THAN THE REST OF US. PLEASE, SIT DOWN, I WILL HAVE TOPAZ TEND TO--

I HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR LOVER'S HEALING POWER, TURQUOISE!

MY BODY WILL RECUPERATE ON ITS OWN! CAN YOU SAY THE SAME FOR THE GENMWORLD??

YOU KNOW SHE CANNOT, GARNET. NONE OF US CAN.

THERE IS AN EVILNESS ABOUT THIS PLACE NOW. A DARKNESS THAT IS SPREADING WITHOUT REGARD TO BOUNDARIES OR HUMAN CARES.

AND WE HAVE BEEN CHILDREN, IGNORING THE WARNING SIGNS. CONTENT TO PLAY IN OUR MAGIC GARDEN, WHILE CHAOS CLAIMED THE WORLD OUTSIDE ITS GATES.

WELCOME TO REALITY, MY FELLOW NOBLEMEN.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE ALL LOP OFF OUR HAIR, TOPAZ? AND WHAT WILL THAT ACCOMPLISH? ONLY THE SWORD WILL SAVE OUR HOME, TOPAZ. NOT SOME CHILDISH RITE OF PASSAGE.

ONLY THE IGNORANT AND VERY YOUNG BELIEVE THAT MIGHT MAKES RIGHT, TURQUOISE. ONLY THE FOOLHARDY AND THE VERY YOUNG BELIEVE THAT GOOD ALWAYS CONQUERS BAD, OR THAT LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE.

I AM NOT IGNORANT OR FOOLHARDY, TOPAZ. AND CERTAINLY NOT YOUNG.

NO. NONE OF US ARE. NOT ANYMORE.

AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD

SHE IS BLINDED WITH FEAR. WITH PANIC. SHE CAN SEE NOTHING, HEAR NOTHING BUT THE SCREAMS AND GROANS OF THE GEMWORLD'S VOICES.

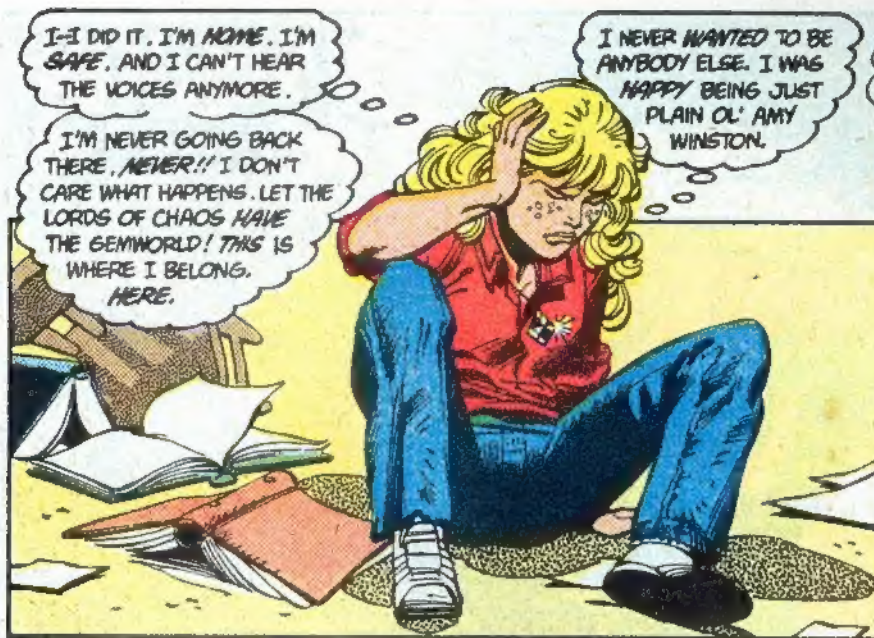
THEY HAVE FOLLOWED HER THROUGH THE INTERDIMENSIONAL VOID, ECHOING ENDLESSLY, ACCUSING HER, BEGGING HER-- "COME BACK, DON'T LEAVE US, WE ARE YOUR BIRTHRIGHT, WE ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY."

BUT SHE IS ONLY THIRTEEN YEARS OLD. SHE DOESN'T WANT RESPONSIBILITY. SHE DOESN'T WANT A BIRTHRIGHT.

SHE ONLY WANTS HER ROOM, HER HOME, HER MOTHER.

AMY WINSTON ONLY WANTS TO FORGET.

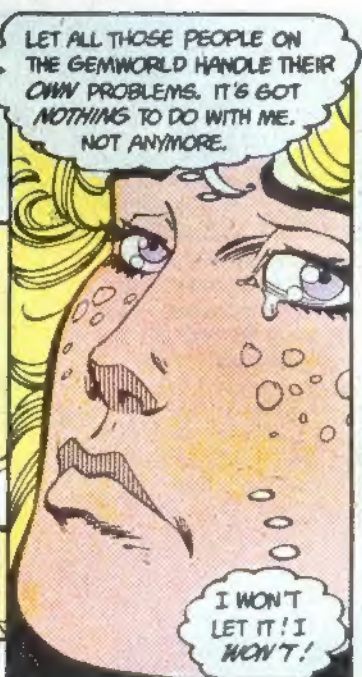
"LITTLE GIRL LOST"



I-I DID IT. I'M HOME. I'M SAFE, AND I CAN'T HEAR THE VOICES ANYMORE.

I'M NEVER GOING BACK THERE, NEVER!! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS. LET THE LORDS OF CHAOS HAVE THE GEMWORLD! THIS IS WHERE I BELONG. HERE.

I NEVER WANTED TO BE ANYBODY ELSE. I WAS HAPPY BEING JUST PLAIN OL' AMY WINSTON.

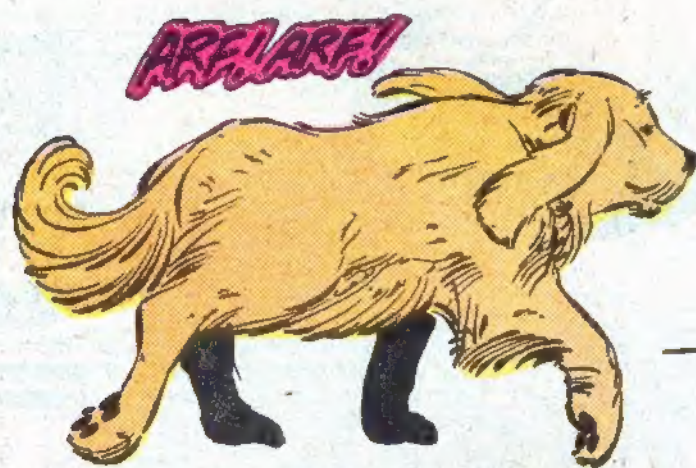


LET ALL THOSE PEOPLE ON THE GEMWORLD HANDLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. NOT ANYMORE.

I WON'T LET IT! I WON'T!

BESIDES, AFTER THE WAY I CUT OUT, THEY PROBABLY--

TAFFY! TAFFY, GIRL, C'MERE!



ARE ARE!



I'M HOME, TAF'. I'M HOME FOR GOOD!



YOU HEAR ME, PAL? I'M HOME TO STAY THIS TIME.

I PROMISE.



AMY! YOU'RE HOME AGAIN. IT'S BEEN SO LONG.

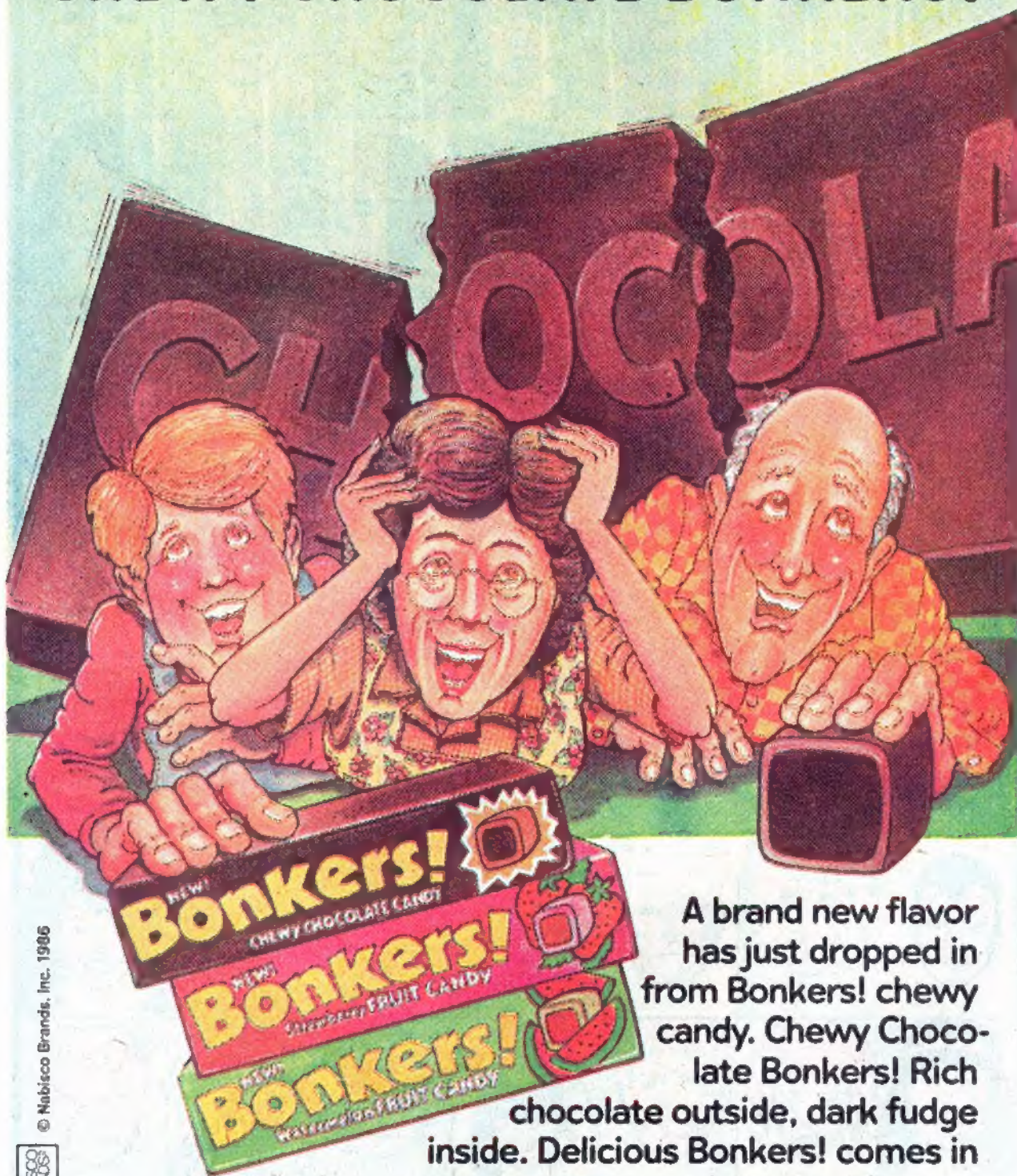
IS IT? I MEAN, HAS IT? I CAN'T GET USED TO THE FUNNY WAY TIME FLOWS BETWEEN EARTH AND THE GEMWORLD.



HOW'S MOM AND DAD? IS EVERYTHING OKAY HERE? HOW MUCH SCHOOL DID I MISS? DID WE GET THAT KILLER BIO TEST BACK? ARE MADONNA AND SEAN STILL TOGETHER? MIAMI VICE STILL HOT--

AMY--

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BEGINNING IN MAY

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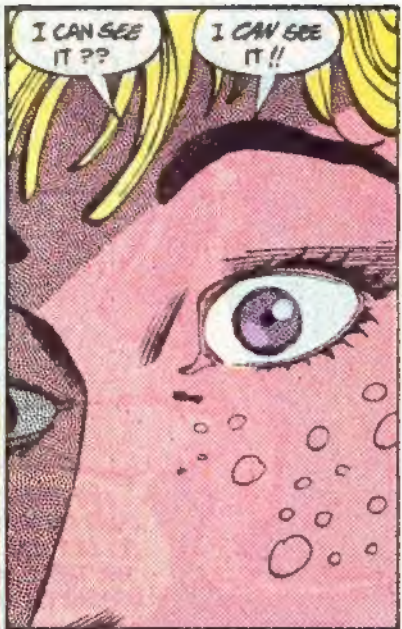
WHAT'S THE MATTER, EMMY? DON'T ASK ME ABOUT THE GEMWORLD. I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. NEVER. EVER.

THAT'S NOT IT, AMY.



NO? OH. OKAY.

THEN WHAT? DID YOU FAIL SOMETHING AT SCHOOL? GOT A CRUSH ON A GUY? IS IT TOM? C'MON, SOMETHING IS REALLY WRONG, I CAN SEE IT, TELL ME ABOUT--



I CAN SEE IT??

I CAN SEE IT!!



I CAN SEE YOU, EMMY! AND TAFFY! AND MY BOOKS OVER THERE! AND THE CHAIR I KNOCKED OVER! I CAN SEE IT! I CAN SEE IT ALL!

AMY! I DON'T UNDERSTAN--



HELLO, FISH! BOY, I NEVER REALIZED JUST HOW GOLD GOLDFISH ARE!

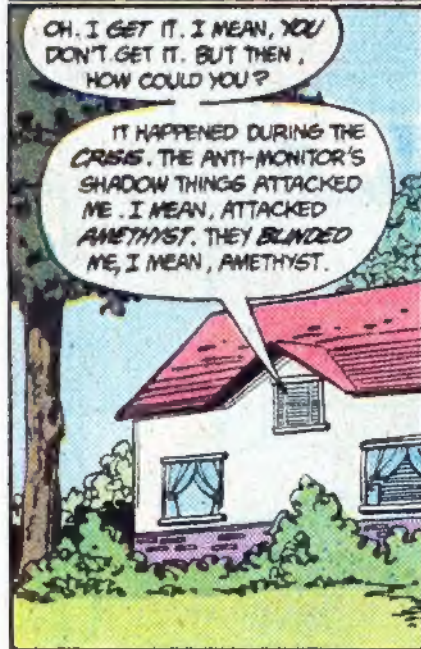
HEY, EM', THIS WATER'S KINDA MURKY, DON'CHA THINK? BEAUTIFULLY, HORRIBLY MURKY!!



EM', DID I EVER TELL YOU YOUR EYES ARE THE GREENEST GREEN I EVER SAW? AND DID YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT BLOND HIGHLIGHTS?

YOU SURE ARE PRETTY, EMMY!

AMY--



OH. I GET IT. I MEAN, YOU DON'T GET IT. BUT THEN, HOW COULD YOU?

IT HAPPENED DURING THE CRISIS. THE ANTI-MONITOR'S SHADOW THINGS ATTACKED ME. I MEAN, ATTACKED AMETHYST. THEY BLINDED ME, I MEAN, AMETHYST.



BUT SOMEHOW, WHEN I'M AMY, I CAN SEE! ISN'T THAT GREAT?

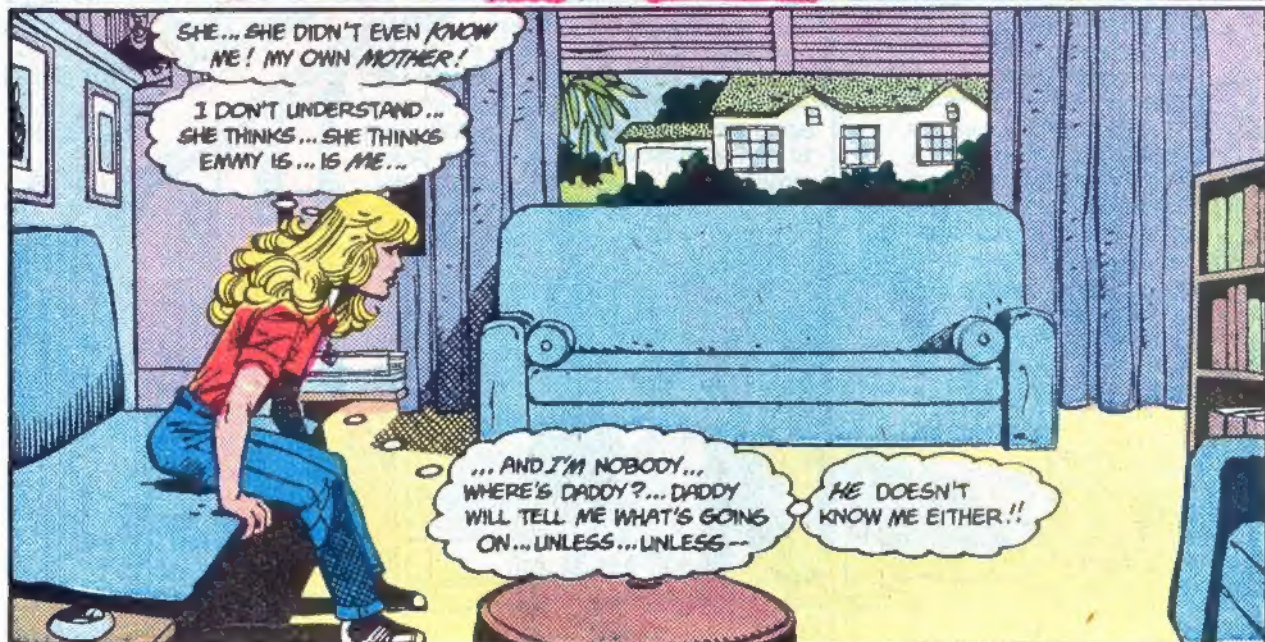
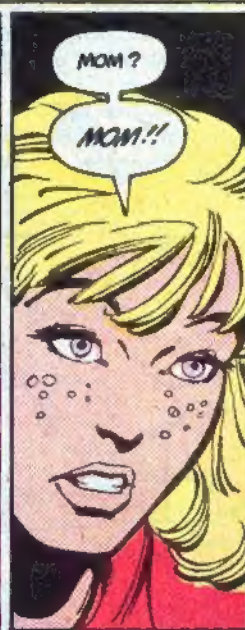
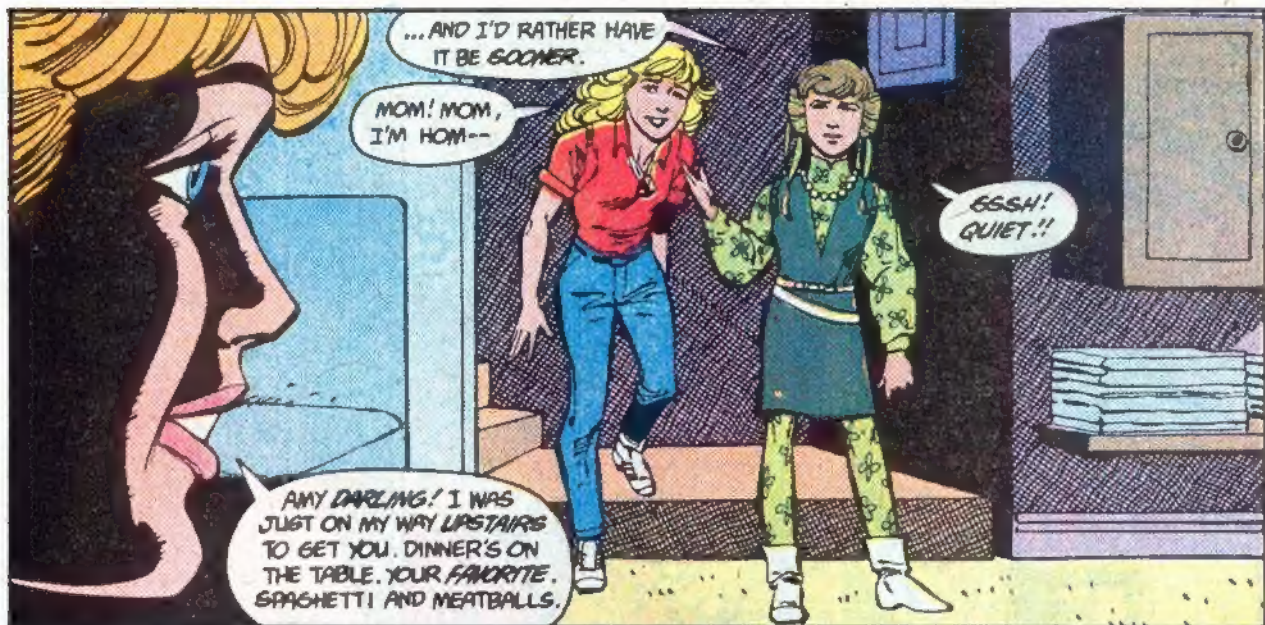
NOW I'M REALLY NEVER GOING BACK. WHO WANTS TO BE A BLIND PRINCESS, ANYWAY, OR A DUMB LORD OF ORDER?

I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, AMY...



...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO SHOW YOU. SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE...

...BUT THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND OUT ABOUT SOONER OR LATER...



THANKS FOR LETTING ME SLEEP, FLAW. THAT BATTLE WITH THE SNOTTY PRINCESS AND HER FRIENDS REALLY WORE ME OUT[®] BUT I SHOWED THEM.

YOU ARE
RESTED NOW,
YOUNG SIR?

YEAH, AND RARING TO
GO'. LOOK, FLAW OVER
THERE'S WHITE OPAL'S KINGDOM.
KIND OF PRETTY, ISN'T IT? ALL
SPARKLING AND SERENE IN
THE SUNLIGHT?

[®] IN AMETHYST #15 -- KB

I HATE PRETTY.

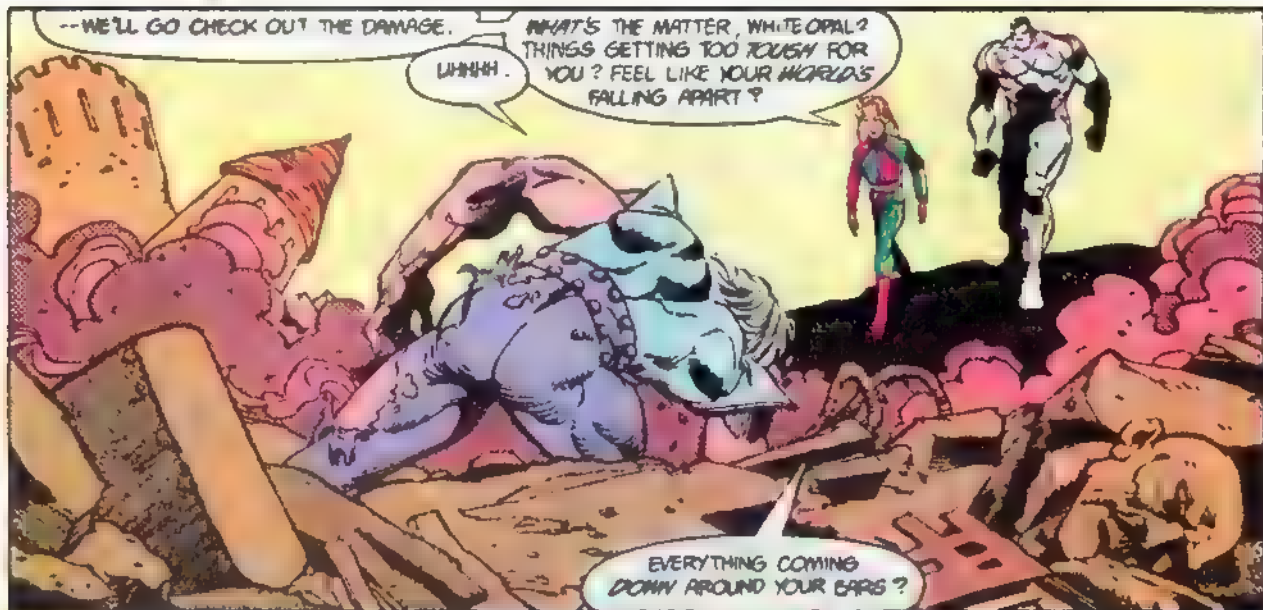
WATCH THIS.
IT'S GONNA
BE GREAT!

FRUMMMMBLE

WHOOOSSH

KRRASSH

"PERFECT--IF I DO SAY
SO MYSELF NOW, IF YOU JUST
GIVE ME A LITTLE LIFT, FLAW--"



--WE'LL GO CHECK OUT THE DAMAGE.

WHHHH..

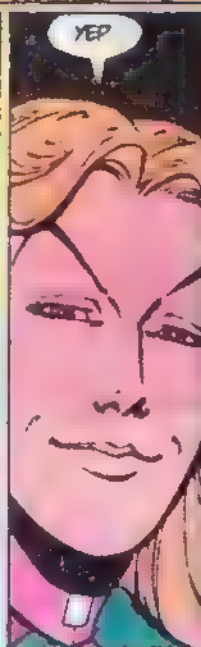
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WHITE OPAL?
THINGS GETTING TOO ROUGH FOR
YOU? FEEL LIKE YOUR WORLD'S
FALLING APART?

EVERYTHING COMING
DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS?



WHO--? WHY--?

YOU... ARE
RESPONSIBLE??



YEP



I DON'T--

UNDERSTAND? DON'T WORRY,
WHITEY. YOU WILL.

SEE I GOT SOME INSIDE
INFORMATION THAT YOU'RE A
CLOSE RELATIVE OF THE LATE,
BUT NOT LAMENTED
DARK OPAL.

AS CLOSE AS A
BROTHER, MAYBE?

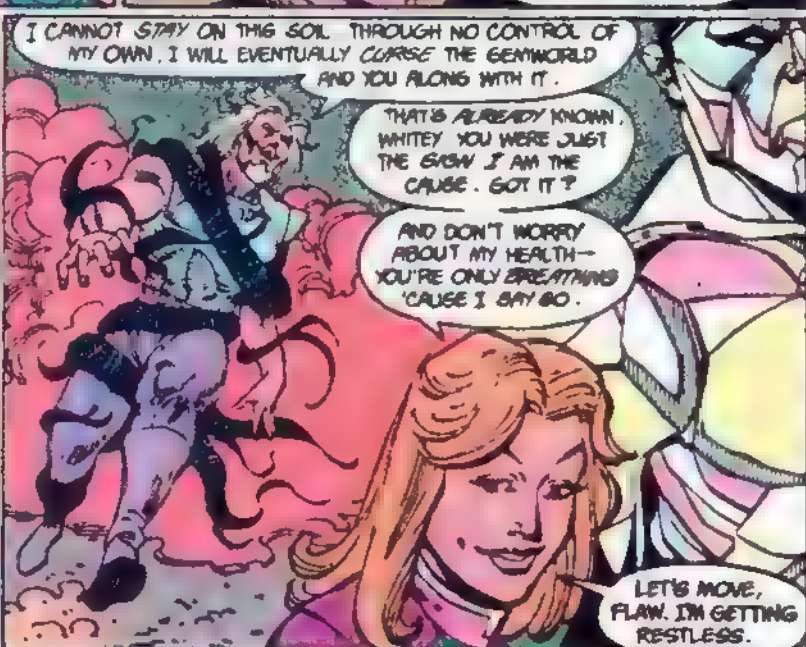
HE RENEGED ON
A BARGAIN WITH SOME
FRIENDS OF MINE.



AND SINCE HE AIN'T AROUND TO PAY
FOR HIS MISTAKE...

AAAGHH!

YOU'RE
GONNA DO IT
FOR HIM!



I CANNOT STAY ON THIS SOIL THROUGH NO CONTROL OF
MY OWN. I WILL EVENTUALLY CURSE THE GENTLE WORLD
AND YOU ALONG WITH IT.

THAT'S ALREADY KNOWN,
WHITEY. YOU WERE JUST
THE GUY I AM THE
CAUSE. GOT IT?

AND DON'T WORRY
ABOUT MY HEALTH--
YOU'RE ONLY BREATHING
'CAUSE I SAY SO.

LET'S MOVE,
FLAW. I'M GETTING
RESTLESS.



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SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE
ROLLING HILLS OF REALITY BE
TWEEN THE MISTS OF THE MERE
AND NOW IS A PLACE OF CHAOS

HE IS PROGRESSING
NICELY

BAH!! HE IS TOO FLIPPANT
AND ARROGANT! I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
SENT! I WOULD NOT DANCE AROUND
THE LANDSCAPE AS HE IS DOING!
I WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN
DONE... AND THE GENWORLD
WOULD BE OURS!!

YES YES I AGREE
NEEHEHEHEE!

TO EACH HIS OWN
METHODS BALTHUSA
AS LONG AS THE END
RESULTS ARE REAPED
AS THEY SHOULD BE

BE SILENT,
ALL OF YOU! THE
FINAL DIE IS NOT
YET CAST!

WE SHALL SOON SEE
IF THIS LORD IS WORTHY
OF HIS TASK

AND IN SUCH A WAY
ANYONE THEMSELVES
AS EVER TRY MUST DO

HUDSON,
NEW YORK

WELL, OKAY, EMMY.
I'LL GO GET THE
CONTAINER.

SO, EMMY, NOW THAT
WE'RE ALONE--

--YOU MIND TELLING
ME JUST WHAT THE
HECK IS GOING ON
HERE ?!?

WHAT'D YOU DO, USE SOME
MAGIC TO TAKE MY PLACE
WITH MY MOM? NEVER
THOUGHT YOU'D TURN
OUT TO BE A BACK-
STABBING LITTLE--!

MRS. WINSTON,
CAN I HAVE SOME COFFEE?
MY MOM SOMETIMES LETS
ME, IF I ADD A LOT OF MILK.

STOP, AMY!
SOMETHING IS WRONG
WITH YOUR MOTHER,
BUT I DON'T KNOW
WHAT!

SHHH. SHE'S BACK

NOW, GIRLS, DO I HEAR YOU TWO
YELLING AT EACH OTHER?

AMY, PLEASE
TELL YOUR FRIEND
THAT WE DON'T FIGHT IN
THIS HOUSE, ESPECIALLY
AT THE DINNER TABLE.
WHATEVER IT IS CAN WAIT
UNTIL AFTERWARDS

THEN WE CAN
SIT DOWN TOGETHER
AND TALK ABOUT IT
LIKE GROWN-UPS

YES, MA'AM.
SORRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BE SO FORMAL, AMY.
WHY DON'T YOU TWO
START ON THE DISHES
FOR ME? I'M KIND
OF BUSHED.

SURE,
MOM C'MON,
"EMMY."

UHH... RIGHT,
MRS. WINSTON.

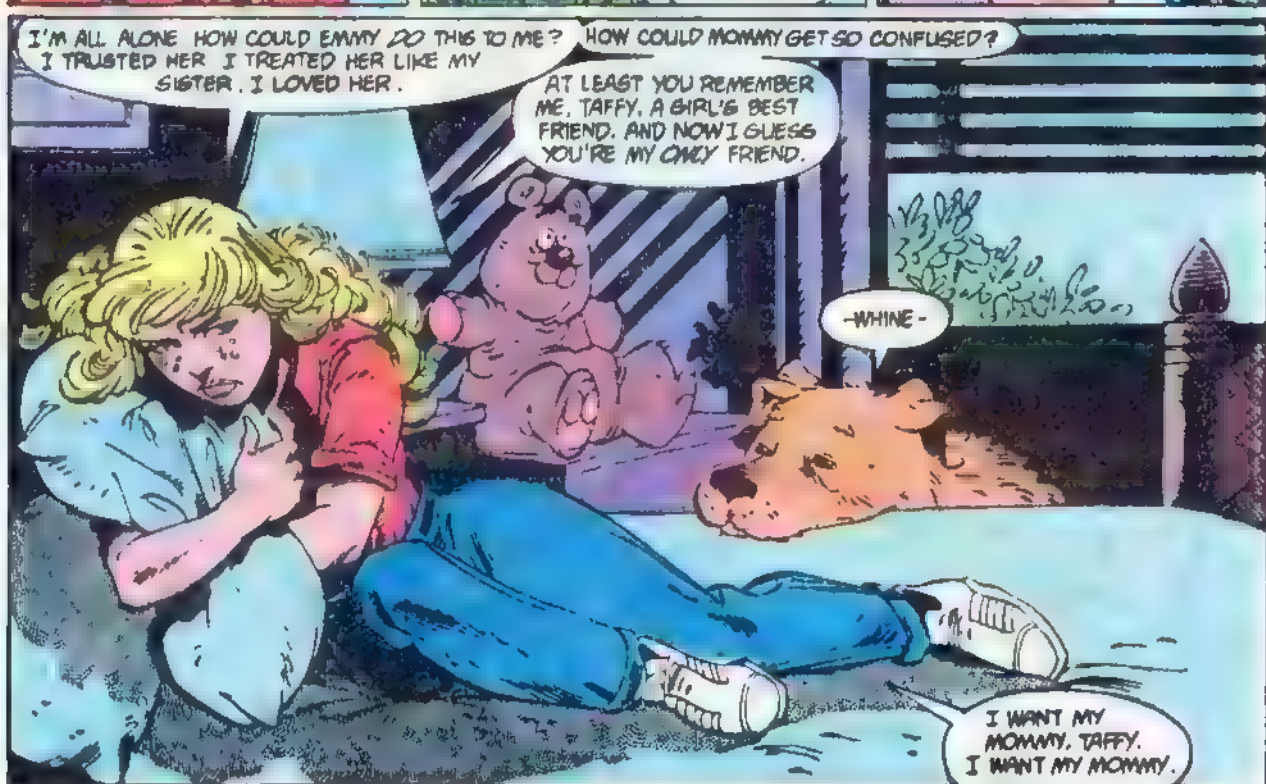
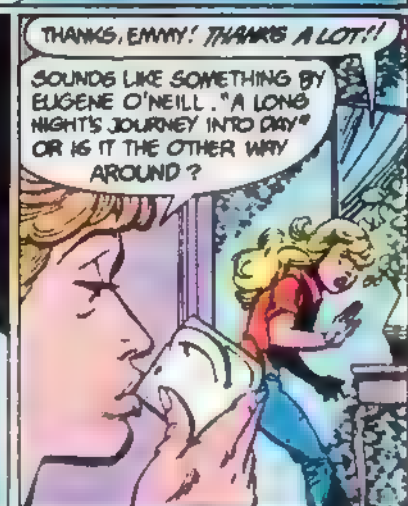
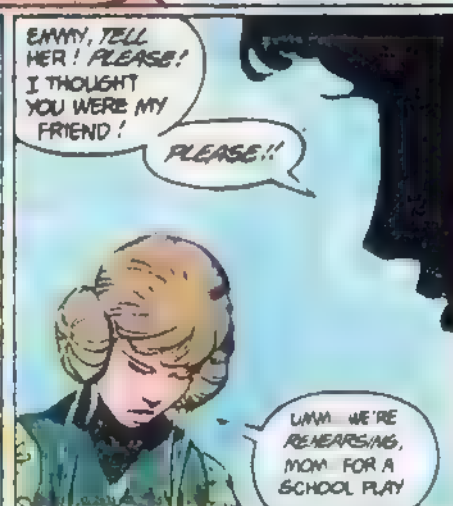
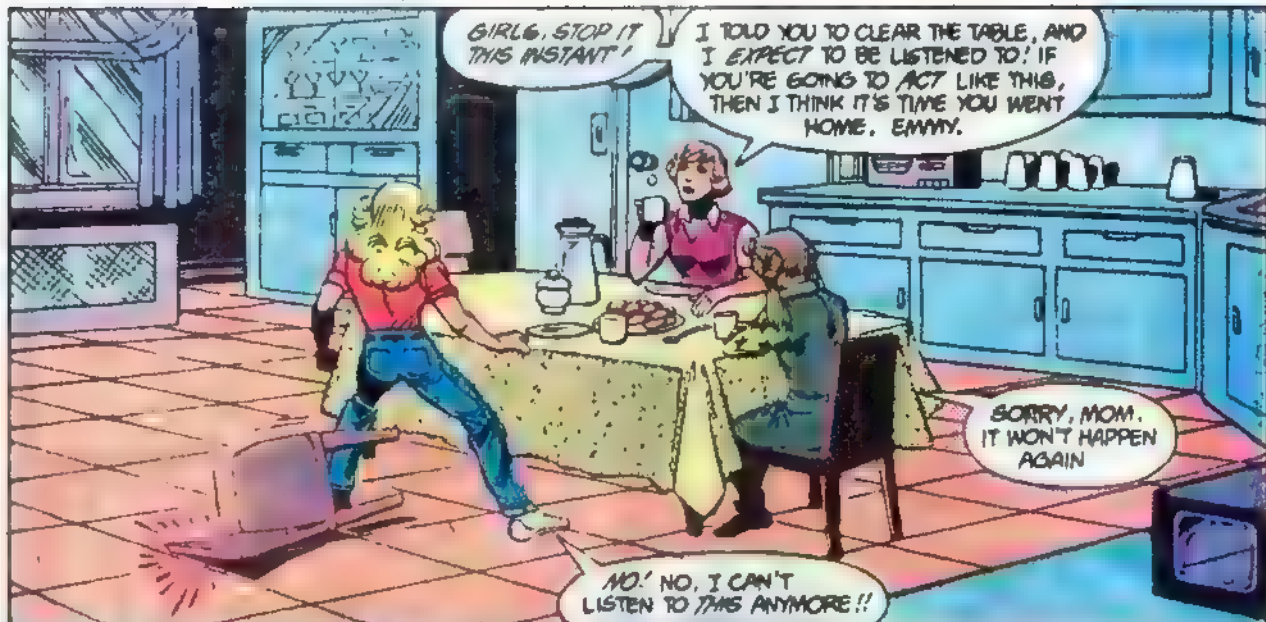
I CAN'T
STAND
THIS!

OKAY, PRINCESS EMERALD, YOU'RE GONNA
TELL ME JUST WHAT MAGIC YOU USED ON
MY MOTHER, AND NOW!

AND WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER? IS
HE GOING TO COME HOME FROM WORK
AND NOT KNOW ME EITHER??

AMY, YOU'RE
HURTING ME!

TOUGH!
TALK!!



IT'S ALL THIS STUPID
STONE'S FAULT!
I HATE IT!

I HATE IT!!

SNAP!

STAY AWAY
FROM IT! IT'S
A CURSE!
IT'S EVIL!

IT'S NOTHING BUT A CAT'S
PAW! IT PROMISED THINGS
AND TOOK THEM
AWAY!!

JUST LEAVE
IT ALONE!!

STUPID DOG! STUPID
STUPID DOG!

HOW COULD
SHE UNDERSTAND?
HER BOWL IS STILL
HER BOWL AS LONG
AS SOMEBODY TAKES
HER OUT TWICE A
DAY, SHE'S
HAPPY

DOGS HAVE
IT GOOD

WHY COULDN'T
I HAVE BEEN BORN A
DOG? THEN I WOULDN'T
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT ANYTHING!

I NEVER WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN!
NEVER!!

YOK!

NO! TAFFY
STOP!!

WHINE?!

AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
GET OUT OF HERE,
TAFFY!

ARE?

YOU
HEARD ME!
GET OUT!!
OUT!!

Don't
get out

THE GENHWORLD.

KEEP YOUR HEAD LOWERED
BEFORE THE YOUNG SIR,
WHITE OPAL.

PL-PLEASE.
MY NECK
IS TIRED.

I'M
THIRSTY.
PLEASE
LET ME
DRINK

EASE UP, WHITEY. I'VE GOT BIG
PLANS FOR US, BUDDY.

YOU KNOW I COULD HAVE
FLAW SNAP YOUR NECK IN A
SECOND. THEN YOUR TROUBLES
WOULD BE OVER, BUT I WOULDN'T
HAVE A NEW PLAYMATE.

GEE, THIS WATER SURE
FEELS GOOD. NICE AND
COOL ON MY POOR FEET
NOT USED TO THIS OUTDOOR
LIFE, I GUESS.

AH, WHAT THE HECK? LET HIM UP,
FLAW. GIVE HIM SOME WATER

AND C'MERE YOU AND
ME HAVE GOT SOME BUSINESS
TO DISCUSS.

YOU THINK IT IS WISE TO
ALLOW HIM SOME FREEDOM?

WHAT'S THE
DIFF? WON'T MATTER IN
THE LONG RUN.

LISTEN, DID
YOU HAPPEN TO CATCH
SIGHT OF OUR FAVORITE
PRINCESS BACK IN
PURPLEVILLE?

SHE ESCAPED.
SHE MADE THE TRANS-
DIMENSIONAL VOYAGE,
SEEKING SAFE HAVEN.

YOU MEAN SHE TURNED YELLOW, CUT HER LOGGES
AND FOLDED, MADE LIKE A PERSONALITY AND
SPLIT. WENT BACK TO EARTH, I GUESS.

GO THERE, FLAW. GO SHOW LITTLE AMY WINSTON
THAT THERE'S NO SAFE PLACE ON EARTH OR
GENHWORLD, HEAVEN OR HELL.

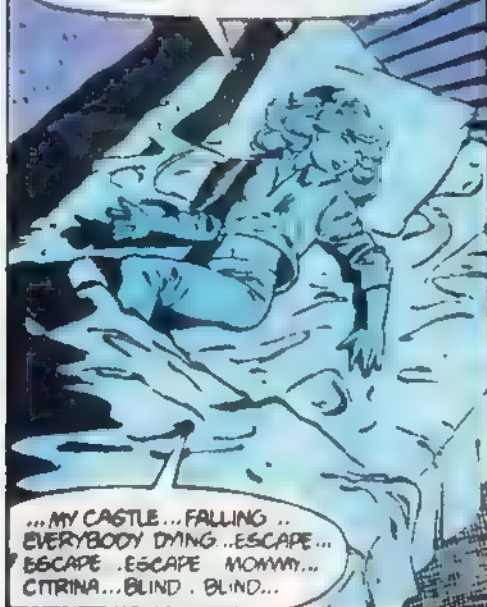
YOU WILL BE
ALL RIGHT?

OH, SURE. I GOT
WHITEY TO KEEP
ME COMPANY.

"AND REMEMBER HER ADDRESS. SHE'S IN A BORING LITTLE TOWN CALLED HUDSON IN THE EMPIRE STATE ITSELF."



NO... MOMMY, DON'T... PLEASE... CARL... CAN'T SEE... BLIND OR FATE...



...MY CASTLE... FALLING... EVERYBODY DYING... ESCAPE... ESCAPE... ESCAPE MOMMY... CITRINA... BLIND... BLIND...

-WHINE-SNIFF-SNIFF...

ARF! ARF!
-WHINE-
ARF!

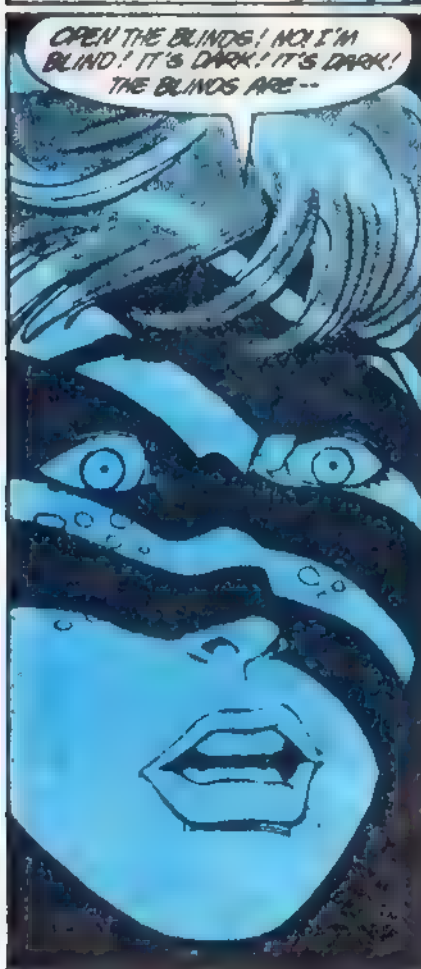


NO! TOPAZ GARNET TURQUOISE I'M SORRY! NOOOOO!!

NOOO! I'M BLIND AGAIN! I CAN'T SEE! MOMMY! MOMMY!

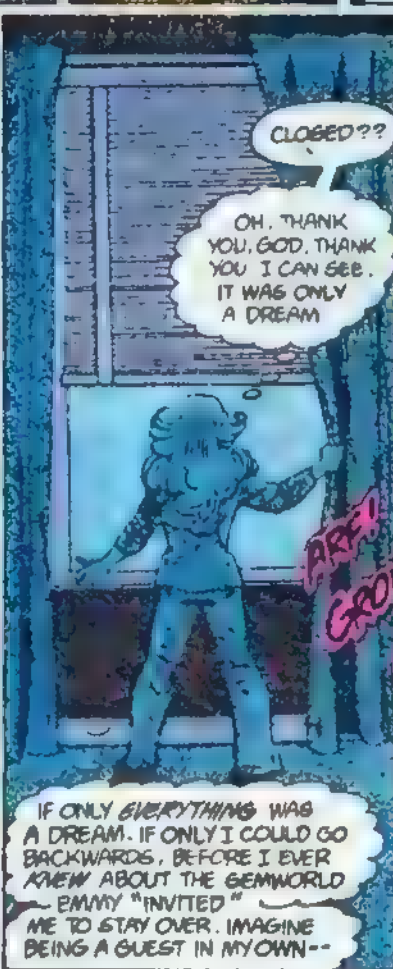


OPEN THE BLINDS! NO! I'M BLIND! IT'S DARK! IT'S DARK! THE BLINDS ARE--



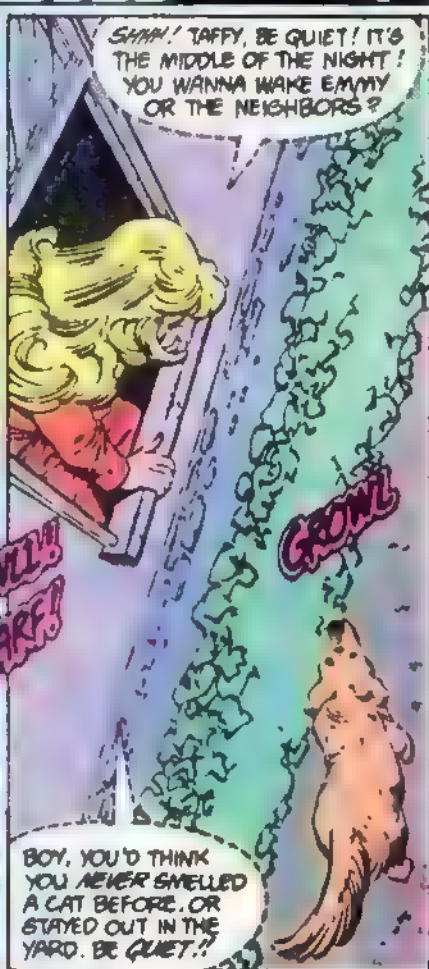
CLOSED??

OH, THANK YOU, GOD, THANK YOU I CAN SEE. IT WAS ONLY A DREAM



IF ONLY EVERYTHING WAS A DREAM. IF ONLY I COULD GO BACKWARDS, BEFORE I EVER KNEW ABOUT THE GEMWORLD - EMMY "INVITED" ME TO STAY OVER. IMAGINE BEING A GUEST IN MY OWN--

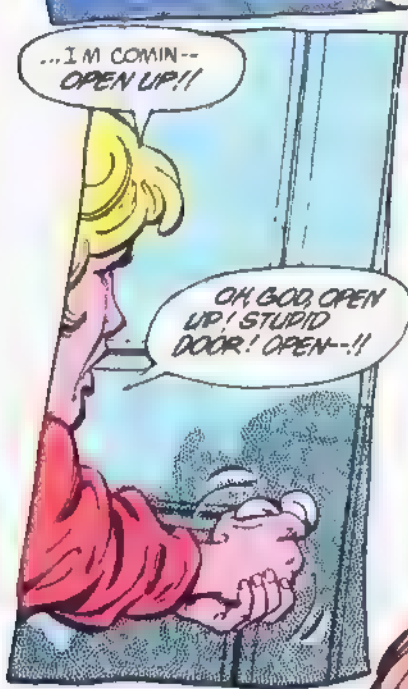
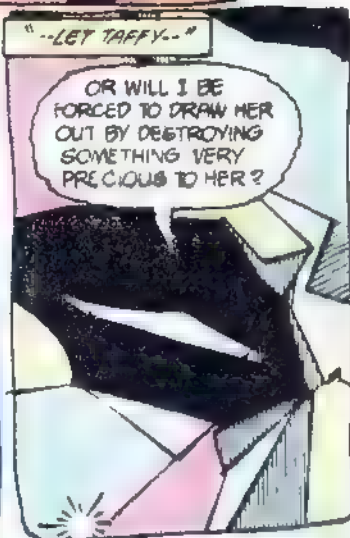
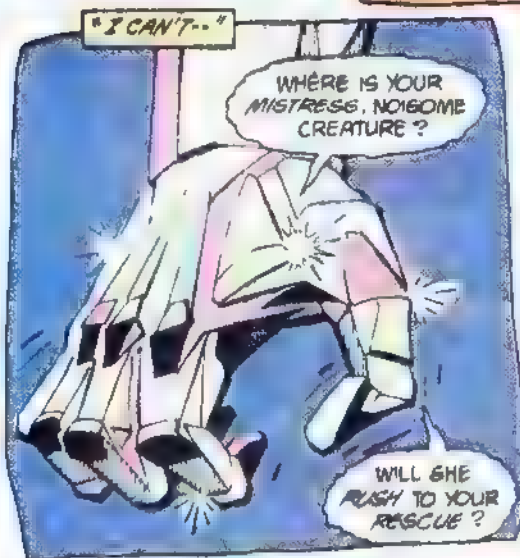
SHHH! TAFFY, BE QUIET! IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT! YOU WANNA WAKE EMMY OR THE NEIGHBORS?



ARF!
GROWL!
ARF!

GROWL

BOY, YOU'D THINK YOU NEVER SMELLED A CAT BEFORE, OR STAYED OUT IN THE YARD. BE QUIET!!



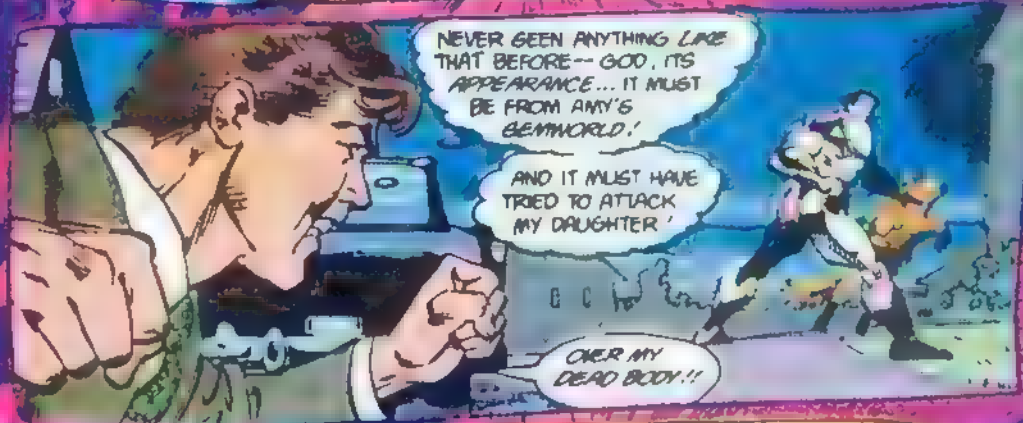
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!



IT IS A GOOD DAY
TO DIE, IS IT NOT,
MONGREL?

GGRRR

YELP
YELP!



NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE-- GOD, ITS
APPEARANCE... IT MUST
BE FROM AMY'S
GEMWORLD!

AND IT MUST HAVE
TRIED TO ATTACK
MY DAUGHTER!

OVER MY
DEAD BODY!!



NOOOOO!
LET GO OF MY
DGS! YOU'RE
KILLING--!

DADDY? OH,
DADDY, DON'T,
PLEASE!!

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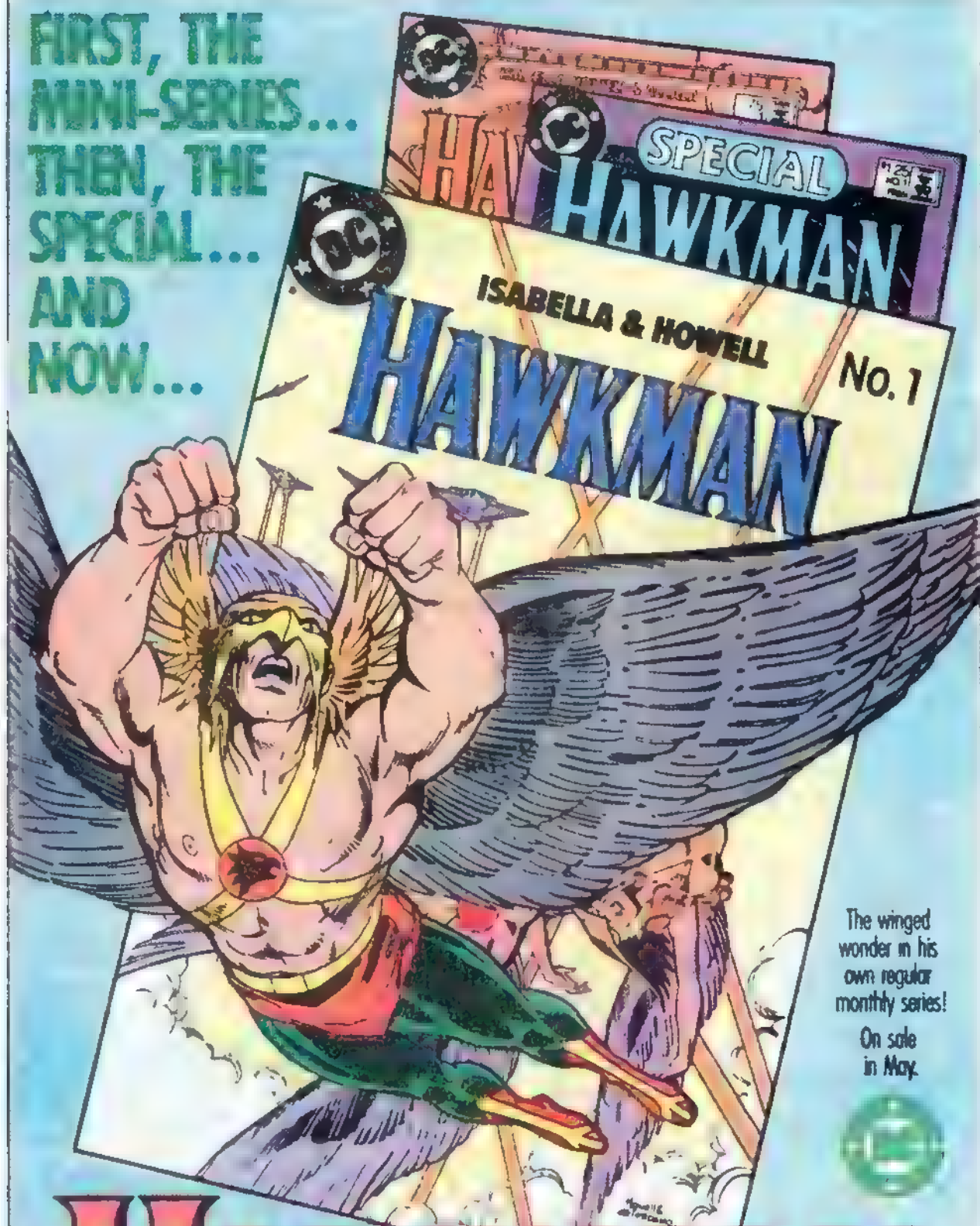
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HAWKMAN



DADDY, DON'T--IT'S AFTER ME 'I'LL GO!

I'M STILL YOUR FATHER, ANY, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND YOUR MOTHER!!

HEY YOU 'BIG GUY' YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE DOG. TAKE IT UP WITH ME!



DADDY!!

AN THE PRINCESS EARTHBOUND FATHER. I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS.



OOF!

HERE IS YOUR BEAST MORTAL!

THUD!
-WHINE-

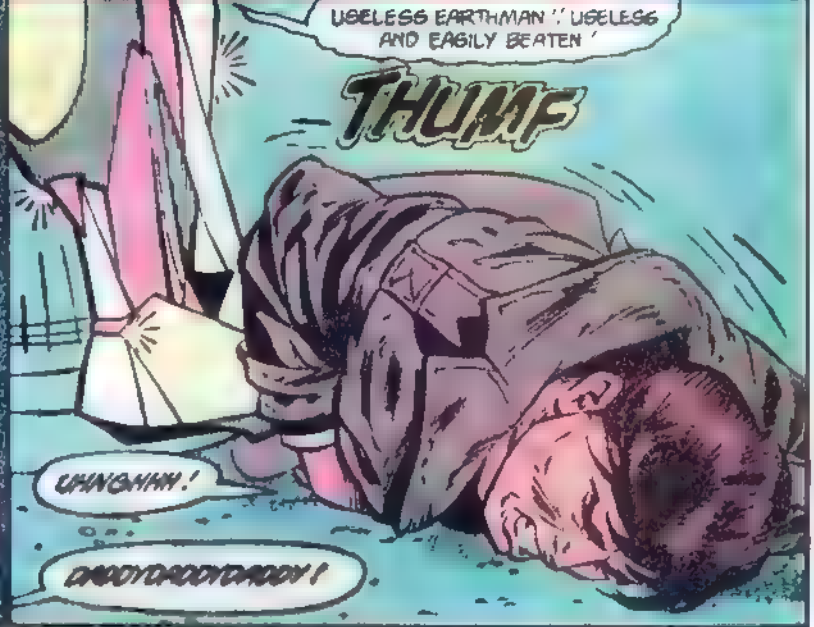
GOD IN HEAVEN! WHAT KIND OF THINGS DOES ANY LIE WITH IN THAT PLACE? HOW CAN SHE SURVIVE THERE?

HOW CAN I SURVIVE?



WHINE-YELP! YELP!

AAAH!



USELESS EARTHMAN!! USELESS AND EASILY BEATEN!

THUMF

UHHHHH!

DADDYDADDYDADDY!



⌘GASP⌘ AMY, GET
YOUR ⌘COUGH⌘ ⌘COUGH⌘
MOTHER--OUT OF
THE--URK

AH, THE CHILD'S
MOTHER IS INSIDE
THE DWELLING?

SHE WILL
BE NEXT, I
PROMISE YOU!



NO... MARION ⌘COUGH⌘
I'M SORRY ⌘GASP⌘

THIS IS ALL MY
FAULT MY FAULT WHAT
AM I GONNA DO DADDY'S
DYING MOMMY'S
GONNA DIE EMMY'S
IN THE HOUSE BUT I
DON'T HAVE MY
AMULET AND HERE
I'M ONLY
THIRTEEN--

I'M ONLY
THIRTEEN!!!
SOMEBODY
HELP ME!!!

EVERYBODY'S
DYING AND IT'S
MY FAULT!!!



HERB! HERB!

MOMMY? MOMMY, I
KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW
IT'S ME, BUT YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN TO--



"THAT'S NOT MOMMY!"

HERB! MY GOD,
WHAT'S HAPPENING
HERE?

WHAT'S
HAPPENINGGGGGG!!!!



ANOTHER WOMAN, EARTHMAN?

WHAT
COULD SHE
POSSIBLY
SEE IN
YOU?

SINA...
NO...NOT YOU
TOO...

PERHAPS KILLING
A WEAKLING LIKE YOU
WOULD NOT SERVE MY YOUNG
SIR AS WELL AFTER ALL....



SHHH, IT'S ALL RIGHT, DARLING. I'M HERE. IT'S OVER, YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY

GI-GINA?
COUGH
COUGH

SHHH

N-NO... YOU DON'T UNDERST-
COUGH
COUGH
AMY, AFTER AMY... GASP



SHHH. AMY'S FINE, DARLING. YOU'RE FINE.



THAT... THINGS... IS BONE, WHATEVER IT WAS. WE'RE SAFE NOW. AMY AND ALL OF US.

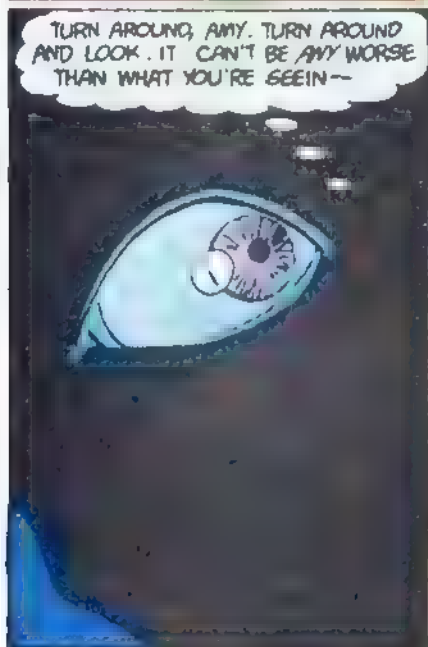
NO.

DADDY, HOW COULD YOU??

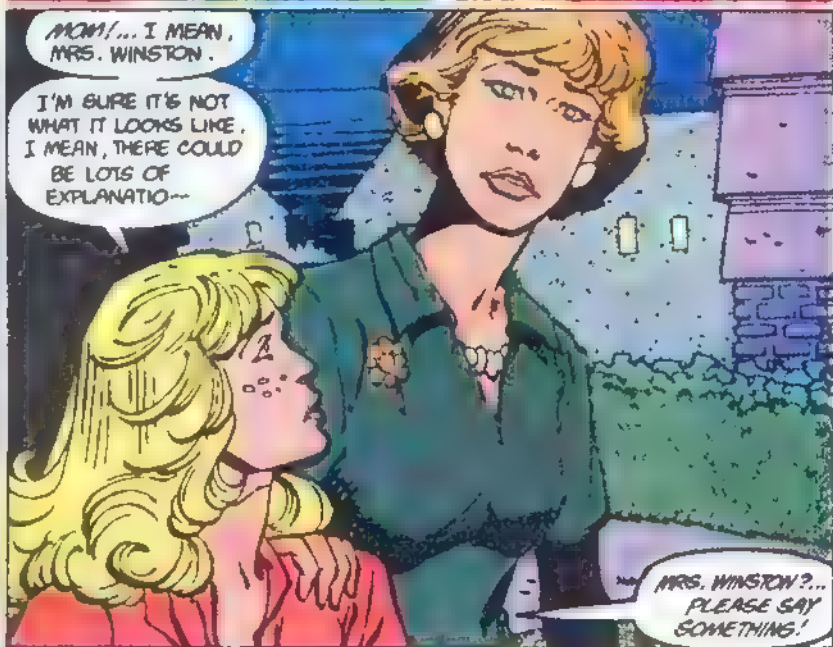


WHO IS SHE? HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO MOMMY?--

--TO ME--
GASP



TURN AROUND, AMY. TURN AROUND AND LOOK. IT CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN WHAT YOU'RE SEEIN--



MOM!... I MEAN, MRS. WINSTON.

I'M SURE IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. I MEAN, THERE COULD BE LOTS OF EXPLANATIO--

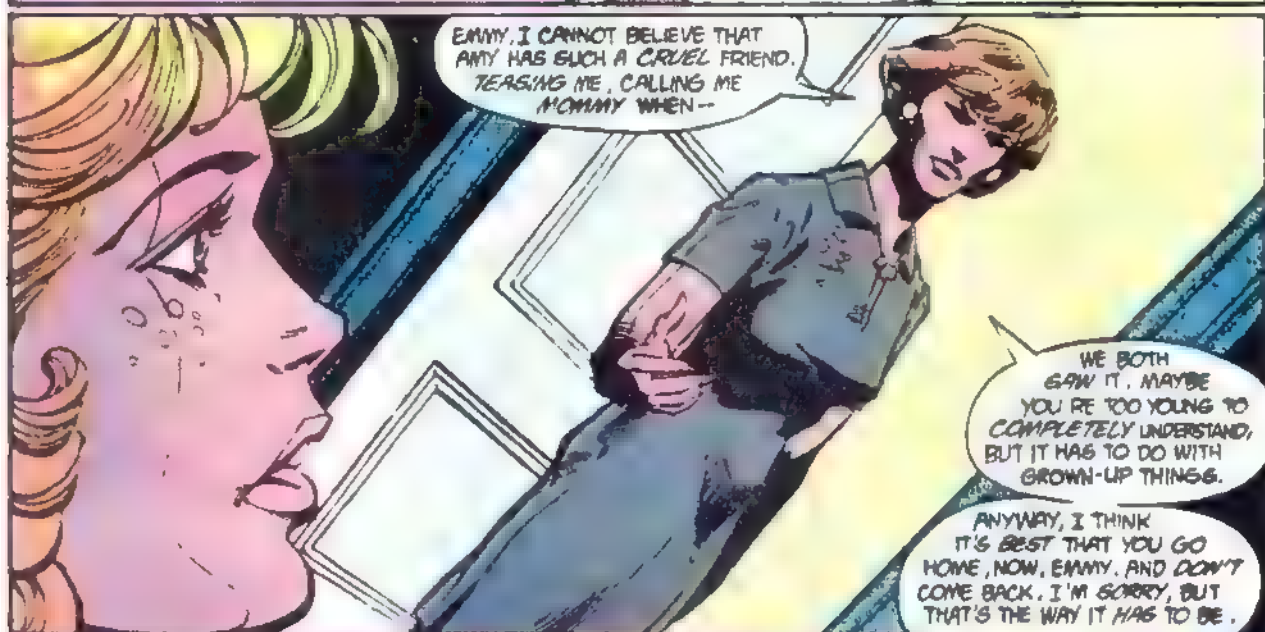
MRS. WINSTON?... PLEASE SAY SOMETHING!



MRS. WINSTON, PLEASE...
WAIT... MAYBE IF WE
JUST TALK...

WE CAN HANDLE
THIS! YOU STILL
HAVE ME! THERE'S
GOT TO BE A
REAS--

MOMMY, COME
BACK! PLEASE! I
NEED YOU! I CAN'T
GO ON LIKE THIS!



EMMY, I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT
AMY HAS SUCH A CRUEL FRIEND.
TEASING ME, CALLING ME
MOMMY WHEN--

WE BOTH
SAW IT, MAYBE
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO
COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND,
BUT IT HAS TO DO WITH
GROWN-UP THINGS.

ANYWAY, I THINK
IT'S BEST THAT YOU GO
HOME, NOW, EMMY. AND DON'T
COME BACK. I'M SORRY, BUT
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.



GO UP AND
GET YOUR THINGS.
AND, PLEASE, DON'T
WAKE AMY. SHE'S
VERY TIRED

I'LL EXPLAIN
IT TO HER IN
THE MORNING

MOMMY...
DADDY... THIS
ISN'T HAPPENING...

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GUEST

MEANWHILE

Dear Dick,

I have been entertaining this idea for a guest *Meanwhile*...for some time now, but I was convinced to send it in when I saw Mark Evanier's article last week on potential comic creators, and how they should go about getting started. To be sure, Mr. Evanier's article was well thought out, badly needed, and, in short, intelligently expressed. I like it! However, I feel that as good and important as it was, those same prospective artists, writers, and editors need to hear from one of their peers, one who wants to be a creative and directional force within the industry, but also one who has not yet been able to participate professionally in this labor of love.



Mr. Evanier made the excellent point of not accepting any one professional's word as law. This is true not only by virtue of common sense, but in my personal, practical experience as well. I have heard many professionals utter many different perspectives, and the only real comment that must be made to further this point is that every creator has their own style; this is true from company to company, whether you're at DC (as I still hope to be), Marvel, First, Eclipse, etc. However, in order to help the many in my position, I am going to offer some of my experiences and advice, which should, as is true with all advice, be annotated to fit the needs of the advisee.

When I first realized that I wanted to

be involved with comic books professionally, it was during the summer preceding my senior year at Boston University, mere months before my first *Meanwhile*...was to be published. Now, I was in management school, and after this revelation, I wasn't quite sure why. Nonetheless, I carried things through in what I considered to be a rational, professional manner. I graduated, and then proceeded to make friends in the industry without making a pest of myself to the administration. This is important if you want to earn the respect of any industry professionals. I made appointments for interviews, instead of simply showing up and expecting some of management's (or anyone else's) valuable time. I listened, and I observed, and I learned the proper way to deal with different people, depending upon who they were, and how they wanted their expectations to be met. I continually keep in touch in order to insure that I am not forgotten, and in order to keep various persons up to date with what I am doing. Most importantly, I remain involved. I worked free-lance for a distributor, running shows and working in his store, and when the time came to support myself, I didn't mope around telling everyone that my unemployment was the direct fault of the blind comic industry, who was passing up possibly the greatest editorial talent to ever pick up a pen; au contraire, I got myself a position in the production department of a major New York publishing house. This was and will always remain in my eyes a crucial step towards the development of my experience. It is easy enough to

tell everyone that you've got talent, but before you can expect them to believe you, you have to go through a process of "paying your dues." Some may view this step as unfortunate, but it is definitely necessary. I have known many people who have tried to go directly into comic books, and have failed miserably because they couldn't wait around for the position of their choice to present itself. True, the industry may have lost a little talent, but perhaps those people didn't have what it takes to become successful—patience, perseverance, and guts. It's okay to go out and get yourself another job if it helps provide experience or is related in some way to the industry of your choice—you may actually enjoy it, as I do mine!



Finally, I didn't let my friends, professionals, or myself discourage me. I remain an active panelologist, I am still writing, working, and loving all of it, and I still have the same aspirations of breaking into the comic industry—this is where one's self-confidence takes an active part in one's future! Oh, yes, I did do one other thing: I joined The Chain (plug, plug!). The Amateur Association of Comic Book Creators, which I have recently become reinvolved with, after a brief hiatus. Anyone interested in joining up is certainly welcome to drop me a line. The only catch is, you must be serious!

Anyway, there you have it: the advice from a peer, a hopeful, an undiscovered talent. I sincerely hope that my fellow prospective professionals benefited from this article (I hope you did, too, Dick!), and by the way—I haven't seen or spoken to you in close to three months, and it's about time I did—I'll set up an appointment soon. Say hello to all my friends at DC.

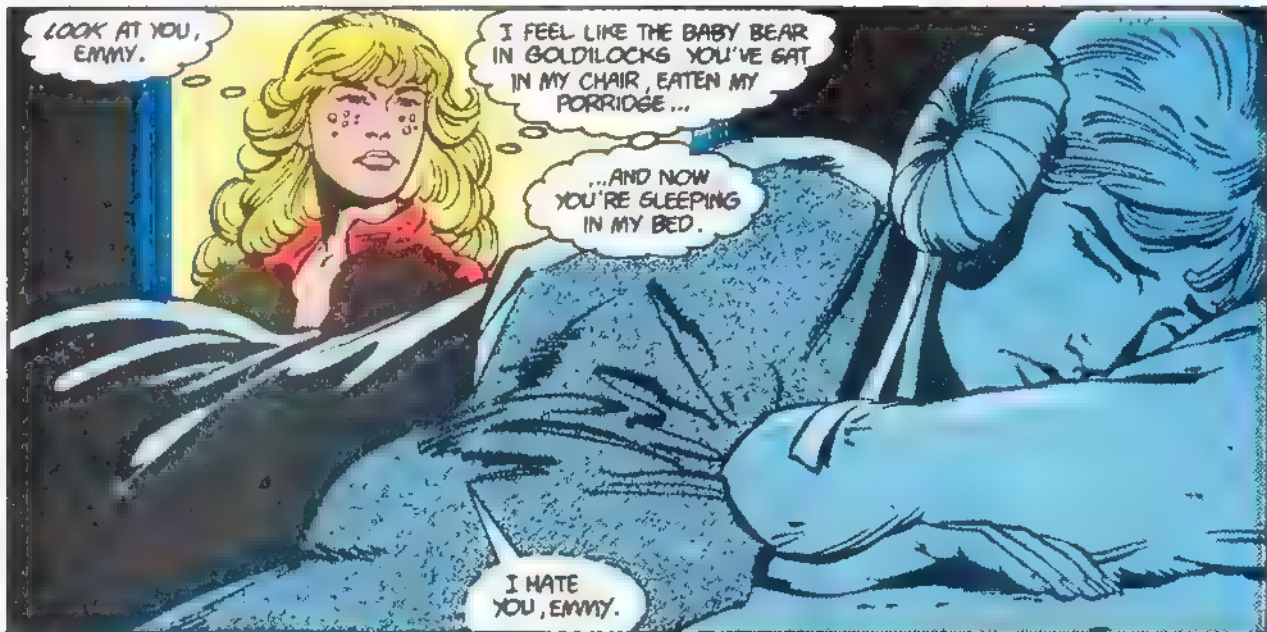
Be well,
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CHECK
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- ☐ **Secret Origins 5:** DC's first costumed hero—the Crimson Avenger!
- ☐ **Amethyst 16:** Amethyst retreats from Gemworld, but Earth isn't safer!

- ☐ **'Mazing Man 8:** Maze tries cat-sitting and meet K.P.'s Grandma!
- ☐ **Blue Beetle 3:** The malevolent Madmen are back and they want Blue Beetle dead
- ☐ **Elvira's House of Mystery™ 6:** Elvira learns one of Cain's secrets!
- ☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 25:** Sensor Girl's secret revealed!
- ☐ **Electric Warrior 4:** The Warriors attack the Primitives!



LOOK AT YOU, EMMY.

I FEEL LIKE THE BABY BEAR IN GOLDILOCKS YOU'VE SAT IN MY CHAIR, EATEN MY PORRIDGE ...

...AND NOW YOU'RE SLEEPING IN MY BED.

I HATE YOU, EMMY.

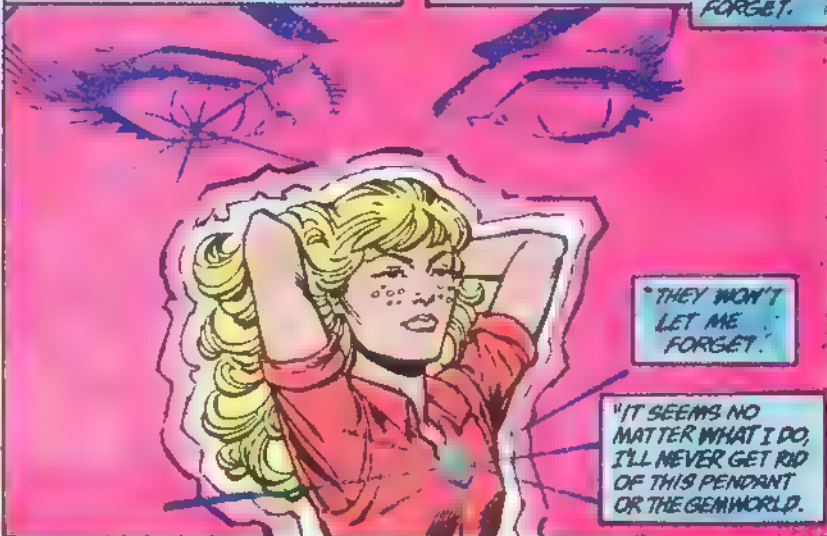


YOU HEAR ME? I-HATE-YOU

WHY SHOULD YOU BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY? WHAT MAKES YOU SO LUCKY??

YOU'RE A PRINCESS, TOO, EMMY. YOU HAVE A BIRTHRIGHT! YOU HAVE A LAND AND A PEOPLE TO RULE!

"BUT NOBODY'S COMING AFTER YOU TO MAKE YOU ACCEPT, MAKE YOU GO BACK! THEY'RE LETTING YOU FORGET."

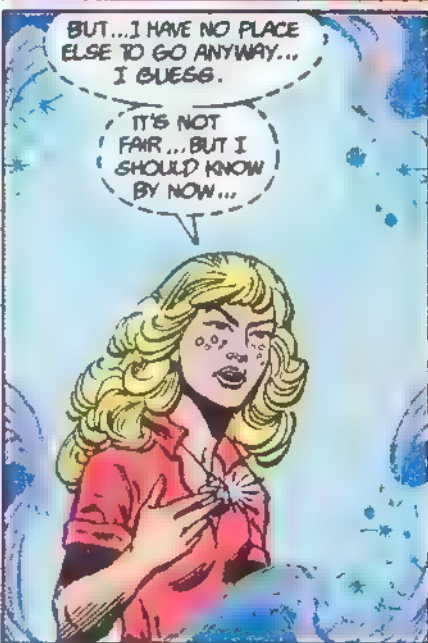


"THEY WON'T LET ME FORGET."

"IT SEEMS NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I'LL NEVER GET RID OF THIS PENDANT OR THE GENWORLD."



"IT'S NOT FAIR!!"



BUT...I HAVE NO PLACE ELSE TO GO ANYWAY... I GUESS.

IT'S NOT FAIR... BUT I SHOULD KNOW BY NOW...



...THAT'S JUST THE WAY LIFE IS.

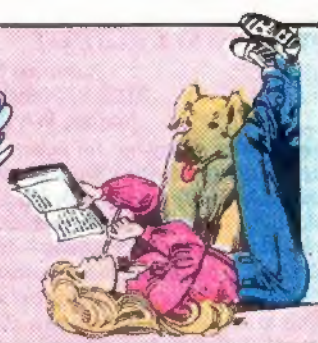
YOU GOT
THAT RIGHT,
KIDDO

LIFE JUST
AIN'T FAIR



TO BE CONTINUED!

purple prose



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L-2382

Dear Karen,

I am a recent convert to AMETHYST, having begun collecting only because I knew female super-hero comics need all the help they can get to stay alive. I was pleasantly surprised to find myself charmed by the few issues I've read and am therefore distressed to see AMETHYST failing to a bimonthly schedule. I hope this trend reverses itself very quickly.

If that can be accomplished solely by producing a comic of quality, issue #12 indicated you can achieve your goal. It was a delightful tale, well-told and fetchingly illustrated. The framing device (Amy as baby-sitter) was quite effective, and the twins' interjections were welcome. Congratulations. Both of these elements could easily have seemed clichéd or tiresome. I, of course, enjoyed such touches as the Wonder Woman doll, Titan magazines, and the Batman poster.

The cover was very nice—simple, yet striking, and most importantly, it conveyed the essence of the interior.

I look forward to Mr. Colón's return to these pages. I hope he can help our favorite Gemworlder attain new heights of popularity (and quality, of course). Best of luck to all involved.

Craig Butler
649 Bronx River Road
Yonkers, NY 10704

Glad to have changed your comic book "persuasion," Craig, and thanks for your supportive words. We were real pleased with issue #12's creative team, too. Once again writer Mindy Newell spun a charming tale, and you can read more by M.N. not only right here in these pages (as you well know) but in the LOIS LANE SPECIAL—a captivating and emotionally gripping saga about missing children on sale this month. I couldn't recommend it highly enough. Special thanks also to Colleen Doran, of Warp Graphics' Distant Soil fame, for the wonderful illustrations. And, lest I forget, a round of applause to cover editor, Ed Hannigan, who (you guessed it) designed the knock-out cover.

Dear Karen:

First off, I've never opened a letter before by using the editor's first name, but after all this time, I feel like you're an old friend. I rarely, if ever, get so involved in a comic that I feel like the writers and artists are close friends, so I thank you for being such a great group of friends.

The reason I decided to write this letter was to inform you that you had gained yet another fan of your light fantasy AMETHYST. To tell you the truth, I had never read an issue involving Amethyst before the CRISIS. When I read of her involvement in issue #11, I thought "Well, maybe she's not all bad. Maybe I'll look at a comic of hers." The fact that Dr. Fate was going to make a guest appearance didn't deter me any either. My girlfriend lent me her collection of Amethyst, so I started looking through her adventures. Before I knew it, I had read all of her adventures from her LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES preview to the fifth issue of her second series plus her Annual and DC COMICS PRESENTS appearance. I was hooked! The ironic thing of it was that she started her collection with an old AMETHYST comic that I had bought and never read because I thought it looked boring. I learned my lesson. From now on, I plan to follow her to any dimension.

It goes without saying that I admire the wonderful characterization that this comic is becoming popular for. Even on the onset of the maxi-series project, terrific characterization lurked in these pages. After all this time, I still mourn for poor Granch's death. Let's not ever forget him in these pages, all right? I have no doubt that Keith Giffen will keep up the wonderful standards that this book has acquired. Good luck on your stay here, Keith, may it be a long one.

Along the art lines, I'm still celebrating the return of Ernie Colón (pass the 'tato chip dip, Mom). He has a certain flair for fantasy like this and if I didn't know better I'll bet he's wondering why he's getting paid to draw such fun stuff. I'll bet he's having a ball doing the pencils for this comic. His women are really beautiful, too.

As for the plot line, I have yet to out-guess you guys. I thought for sure that Dark Opal had returned as Uncle Orville (ouch, what a name), but he was just a robot. Then I thought that maybe Carl was a robot, too, and that Sardonix had sent them to spy on Amethyst and Princess Emerald. I was wrong about that too. Then I thought that Dark Opal would return and Carl would save Amethyst. No luck. Oh, well, that's half the fun of comics.

I think it might be fun, as a breather for hectic Giffen, to have a couple of one-issue stories. I think one story you could use is having the pack of wolflike creatures that Taffy was in charge of (remember #2 from the first series?) being attacked by some demonic or

dragonlike creature that wants to live in their part of the forest. As a last hope, they subconsciously call for Taffy, their leader, to come and save them. Of course, their combined magical abilities would bring him to Gemworld just in time to regroup them and drive the foul beast away. What do you think? Oh, well, I tried. Another idea is to have a story guest-starring Kirby's Sandman. It fits, since he probably lives next door to that dimension between Earth and Gemworld. You could either have one of Sandman's assistants, Glob or Brute, accidentally go into Gemworld and mystical properties there mutate them further and make them go mad and go on a rampage. This would cause Sandman to help come to the rescue, and his dimension's relation, if any, to Gemworld's could be explained; or while Amethyst is traveling to Gemworld in her sleep, something causes her to lose her Amethyst necklace and she gets trapped in the in-between dimension. These are just a few ideas; you can come up with much better ideas, I'm sure. A breather for Giffen might be appreciated, though, and if you do need help scripting, I'm sure I could find time (hint, hint).

Oh, well, keep up the wonderful work. I'm with you until Dark Opal leaves Gemworld to become a yuppie.

Sincerely,
Kyle Kofoid
218 North Cherry Street
Lamoni, IA 50140

Hurrah! Yet another who has seen the light! We had hoped the series' new direction (tying Amethyst firmly into the DC Universe and the Dr. Fate connection) would attract more readers like yourself, Kyle. Welcome aboard! Unfortunately, we didn't win over enough new faces, but more on that later. As for Ernie Colón ... he's planning to add another exciting new project to his magical drawing board—THE STARDUST KID—a fantasy/super-hero title written by none other than J.M. DeMatteis of the critically acclaimed Epic Moonshadow series. Yours truly will edit.

Dear Gems,

Wow. I knew that CRISIS would be bringing on changes, but not ones of this nature to Amethyst, of all people! I've never really followed Amethyst's regular series, feeling that the maxi-series had been just the right amount of story for the purple princess. I set out for

an entire year. Then, the other day, I saw the CRISIS crossover, written by Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming no less! "What is this?" I thought. "Amethyst meets Ambush Bug? With Dr. Fate?" I was highly intrigued, to say the least. After I read issue 13, however, I was highly impressed. If Giffen and Fleming keep this up, and stay on AMETHYST, this book just may make the final cut in the reevaluation I'm currently putting my buying list through. I've already given the LEGION the axe, so that's fairly high praise to you guys.

As far as plots go, something plenty weird is going on here. I basically have no idea what's going on at all. I was interested by, however, the way Amethyst started to bleed from the head after hearing the story of how she was actually taken to Earth. I believe the cut was in exactly the same place her mother's was in the flashback. Hmmm...

The artwork is excellent, as Ernie Colón's work usually is (even though he did get a bit sloppy towards the end of the maxi-series). Judging by this and LEGIONNAIRES 3, he's found the perfect inker in Karl Kesel. In fact, he seems to work well with Giffen and Fleming and Berger, too. Heck, they all seem to bring out the best in each other. Anyway, keep it up, guys. I love things that complicate my life like finding a place for AMETHYST on my list will. I guess I'm just funny that way.

HAPPY TRAILS!

Mark Brett
Halifax, N.C.

Good work on sighting the same forehead wound on both Amethyst and her mother, Mark. (I love when the subtleties get noticed!) But, I couldn't help to wonder why, oh, why, you've axed the LEGION from your reading list! One of the biggest mysteries in comicdom has been occurring these past months and our upcoming ANNUAL marks the return of Darkseid. Do yourself a favor and come back to the 30th century. You won't be sorry!

Dear Karen,

You've done it! I have been reading AMETHYST for a long time, and as a serious comic reader, I was beginning to wonder when (if ever) Amethyst was going to change into an adult Princess and start pulling her own weight and making her own decisions. Now you've made the change and I am thrilled! I have always liked the idea of Amy having security, and Amethyst having the adventures, but I had been worried about Amethyst maturing and taking her place as ruler of the Gemworld. The story in #13 was excellent; all of us have to learn sometime that our parents aren't perfect, and taking a little of the fairy tale out of the Gemworld was a great way to turn the story.

I wanted to write and say how much I like the direction AMETHYST is taking and I think the work you folks have been doing is terrific.

Thank you for a great book!

Lorraine Miller
3100 S. 208th F101
Seattle, WA 98188

We're always trying to inject some reality into our fantasy world, Lorraine. And since we're on the subject, please allow me to plug an incredible new limited series that I'm editing—ANGEL LOVE. It's all about the troubles and triumphs of a young woman artist struggling to make it in the big city. But it's entirely different from any other comic out right now, for it's a blend of realism, fantasy, humor, and hard-hitting issues like drugs and abortion. If you haven't already been bold, innovative, and daring and purchased ANGEL LOVE #1, do so now! Be sure to pass it on!

Dear Sir,

I would be surprised if AMETHYST #13 does not touch off a storm of controversy. However, I think I'll try to avoid stating unequivocally whether these latest developments are good or bad, making my every argument simply an extension of the first principle "that is marvy/stinks," and will instead try to honestly evaluate the liabilities and assets of this move.

First, the reservations. I suspect Giffen and Fleming are taking a tack 180 degrees from what Mishkin and Cohn intended. Any radical departure from the original vision of the creators makes me uneasy, because I think there is a lot to what John Byrne says about the creators of classic characters basically knowing what they were doing, and that 90 percent of later "improvements" often take away from what made the character interesting. The "Paradise Lost" aspect of the Amethyst legend, where Amethyst's parents paralleled Superman's origins by laying down their lives so their infant daughter could be saved from wreck and ruin, had a powerful mythic feel to it. (Though admittedly, Giffen's and Fleming's Lady Amethyst strongly recalled the tragedy of a Queen Guinevere.) I do not believe Citrina's painting of Gemworld B.D.O. (Before Dark Opal) as a tranquil place was a total lie—there is other testimony besides Citrina's. Prince Garnet had no reason to lie when he told Amethyst and Emerald that there was a time when it was felt Prince Opal presented no threat as long as Lady Amethyst was around to keep an eye on him. Dark Opal certainly was a mad fool, but not so as to make a dangerous alliance unnecessarily. Evidently Amethyst had to have been so secure in power that even Dark Opal's ego could not blind him to the folly of proceeding against the Lord and Lady alone. Also, there is also the problem of Amy Winston's powerlessness—if she is really a Lord of Order, why would Earth curb all her power and not Fate's?

My most serious reservation is Fate's opening thought, "She may ultimately turn out to be the most powerful creature in the universe!" Nowadays,

there seems to be a backlash against "too-powerful" heroes, sweeping up notables like Firestorm, Zatanna, and even Superman in its wake. I personally aim not a proponent of the scale-down powers school, but with Amethyst's sales being in a lull, she sure doesn't need to make any enemies among fans and pros.

Gary Thompson
3701 Roosevelt
Dearborn, MI 48124

It was of our utmost concern when plotting the new direction for AMETHYST, Gary, not to undermine the original concept, but to expand and enrich it. Yes, Amethyst's present role as a Lord of Order is a radical change, but it doesn't negate all that has happened to her as Amy, nor her personal Gemworld history. Yes, the Gemworld's past (pre-Dark Opal's reign) is now "legend," a romantic tale told by Citrina. But we feel that that notion only embellishes and widens the series' concept. The ruling class of the Gemworld seem to have accepted their rightful ruler's altered status quite well, so far. But, you never know what ramifications might ensue.

Now for something I really hoped I'd never have to write, but, alas ... as someone once said (and if I ever find that person, I'll definitely give 'em a piece of my mind), all good things must come to an end. Yes, everyone, unfortunately, AMETHYST's number is up. It's time for this monthly series to join that great colorful comic book cavalcade in the sky.

As I mentioned when AMETHYST's frequency changed to a bimonthly schedule a number of months ago, the book's sales were far from sparkling. And, we're sad to say, the situation never brightened. If everyone reading comics were as loyal, supportive, and interested as all of you, then I wouldn't be writing this part of the column. But, I guess some people feel that they must outgrow fairy tales and fantasy. We, of course, know that there's magic in believing and we're never going to forget it!

So ... I'll save our good-byes (sniff sniff) for next issue's double-sized spectacular—AMETHYST SPECIAL #1—where our princess makes the ultimate sacrifice to banish Cheos from the Gemworld! But, all is not lost, people. As someone once said (and if I ever find that person, I'll definitely kiss 'em), from all bad things come good! We have a great (and I mean it) four-part AMETHYST mini-series cooking, that will shortly follow the SPECIAL. We'll introduce Amethyst as the Lord of Order she truly is, in a revitalized Gemworld. And ... we'll be tying in with the Sorcerers' World of the Legion of Super-Heroes, not to mention other terrific stuff! But, I'll save those details for next time. Until then, take care, all, and we'll see you soon—Karen





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